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Letter dated 11 November 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 11 November 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 11 November 1998 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letters dated 19, 20, 23, 26 and 28 October and 2 and 6 November 1998 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot delegate at the United Nations, which contain allegations regarding "violations of the airspace of the Republic and of the flight information region of Nicosia" (A/53/527-S/1998/979, A/53/535-S/1998/988, A/53/542-S/1998/1001, A/53/547-S/1998/1006, A/53/562-S/1998/1022, A/53/571-S/1998/1027 and A/53/649-S/1998/1048).

As similar unfounded allegations of so-called airspace violations have been rejected in toto in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 19 October 1998 (A/53/520-S/1998/974), I will confine myself to reiterating that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State. The Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction, control or authority whatsoever over the national territory, airspace or flight information region of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

The latest flurry of letters from the Greek Cypriot side comes as part of its ongoing intensified campaign of blatant misinformation on the Cyprus issue. Whatever tactics the Greek Cypriot side chooses to employ in order to disseminate false and misleading propaganda at the United Nations and elsewhere, its hostile intentions are in evidence given its ongoing anachronistic policies as well as its massive rearmament campaign directed against the Turkish Cypriot side within the context of the Joint Military Doctrine with Greece.

From 20 to 25 October 1998, Greek Cypriot National Guard units took part in the "Nikiforos-Toxotis" military manoeuvres jointly with Greek air force and naval units in a provocative show of force in and around South Cyprus. Greek Cypriot political and military leadership issued provocative statements while air force and naval units engaged in manoeuvres, using live ammunition, which pronounced the element of offence in order to "capture occupied territories". In an extreme provocation, apart from Greek fighter planes being deployed at the Paphos military airbase, on 25 October 1998, four military aircraft belonging to the Greek Air Force violated our national airspace, thus exacerbating the already tense situation created by the militant acts of the Greek-Greek Cypriot camp.

On the last day of the joint military manoeuvres, the Greek Cypriot leader, Glafkos Clerides, announced that the plans for the construction of a naval base at Zyghi in South Cyprus were finalized. The Greek Cypriot Defence Minister Mr. Omirou also confirmed that infrastructural work for the construction of the base was under way.

The Greek Cypriot militarization campaign has reached unprecedented levels which clearly threaten peace and stability in the island and the region. It is

incumbent upon the international community to caution the Greek Cypriot leadership strongly in connection with its aggressive and provocative behaviour. The Greek Cypriot side must be urged to move onto the path of reconciliation and to assist efforts towards confidence-building between the two States.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 62, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus